This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a thermoplastic polymeric foam second polymeric material including a wood component in an amount effective as a filler ~~which is a thermoplastic polymeric material~~; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite;

the composite being a coextruded composite.

Claim 2 (original): The composite of claim 1 wherein at least two of the first, second and third polymeric materials have different chemical compositions.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and third polymeric materials is a thermoplastic polymeric material.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The composite of claim 1 wherein each of the first and third polymeric materials is a thermoplastic polymeric material.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1 wherein the composite has a substantially rectangular cross-section perpendicular to the length.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1 wherein the core layer is substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer along substantially the entire length of the composite and the inner layer is substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer along substantially the entire length of the composite.

Claim 8 (original): The composite of claim 1 wherein the first polymeric material is weatherable.

Claim 9 (original): The composite of claim 1 wherein the first polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The composite of claim 1 wherein the ~~core layer includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler, and the~~ second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials, and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The composite of claim 1 wherein the third polymeric material is polyvinylchloride.

Claim 16 (original) The composite of claim 1 in the form of a fence component or a decking component.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic foam second polymeric material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the composite component being coextruded and having a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length of the composite component, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite component.

Claim 19 (original) The component of claim 18 wherein at least two of the first, second and third polymeric materials have different chemical compositions.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): The component of claim 18

wherein the core layer is substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer along substantially the entire length of the composite component and the inner layer is substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer along substantially the entire length of the composite component.

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (original): The component of claim 18 in the form of a fence post.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The component of claim 18 in the form of a fence rail.

Claim 25 (original): The component of claim 18 in the form of a decking plank.

Claim 26 (currently amended) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic <u>foam</u> second polymeric material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

each of said fence posts and rails being a coextruded composite having a length and a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially

uniform size and shape along the entire length, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite.

Claim 27 (original): The system of claim 26 wherein at least two of the first, second and third polymeric materials have different chemical compositions.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): The system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the plurality of fence posts and the plurality of fence rails have substantially rectangular cross-sections perpendicular to the lengths.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 26 wherein the core layer is substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer along substantially the entire length of each of said fence posts and rails, and the inner layer is substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer along substantially the entire length of each of said fence posts and rails.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): The component of claim 18 wherein the first polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 26

wherein the first polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1 wherein the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride, and the core layer comprises a wood-filled acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric material.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1 wherein the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic and combinations thereof.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The composite of claim 37 wherein the core layer includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The composite of claim 18 wherein the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material is acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The composite of claim 18 wherein the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic and combinations thereof.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The composite of claim 26

wherein the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material is acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic.

Claim 42 (previously presented) The composite of claim 26 wherein the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic and combinations thereof.

Claim 43: (previously presented) A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a second polymeric material which is a thermoplastic polymeric foam material and includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite;

the composite being a coextruded composite.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a <u>polyvinylchloride</u> first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a second polymeric material which is a thermoplastic polymeric material and includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler, the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a polyvinylchloride third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite;

the composite being a coextruded composite.

Claim 45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a second polymeric material which is a thermoplastic polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite;

the composite being a coextruded composite and the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The composite of claim 46 wherein the core layer includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric foam material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the composite component being coextruded and having a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length of the composite component, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite component.

Claim 49 (previously presented) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric foam material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

each of said fence posts and rails being a coextruded composite having a length and a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite.

Claim 50 (previously presented) : A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising

a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material which is an acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the composite component being coextruded and having a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length of the composite component, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite component, the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material, the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the composite component being coextruded and having a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length of the composite component, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite component, the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both

polyvinylchloride.

Claim 52 (previously presented) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material which is an acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric material; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

each of said fence posts and rails being a coextruded composite having a length and a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite, the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride.

Claim 53 (previously presented) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material, the second polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of

polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials and combinations thereof; and

an inner layer circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

each of said fence posts and rails being a coextruded composite having a length and a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite, the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material are both polyvinylchloride.

Claim 54 (new): A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a second polymeric material which is a thermoplastic polymeric material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite;

the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material both comprising polyvinylchloride, and the core layer comprising a wood-filled acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric material; and

the composite being a coextruded composite.

Claim 55 (new): A composite having a length, the composite comprising:

an outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a second polymeric material which is a

thermoplastic polymeric material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite;

the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material both comprising polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material is acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic; and

the composite being a coextruded composite.

Claim 56 (new): The composite of claim 55 wherein the core layer includes a wood component in an amount effective as a filler.

Claim 57 (new): A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled second thermoplastic material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material both comprising polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material comprising acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic; and

the composite component being coextruded and having a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length of the composite component, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite component.

Claim 58 (new): A composite component having a length, the composite component comprising:

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled second thermoplastic material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space, the composite component being a fence component or a decking component;

the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material both comprising polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic, and combinations thereof; and

the composite component being coextruded and having a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length of the composite component, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite component.

59. (New) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material,

wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material both comprising polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material comprising acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic; and

each of said fence posts and rails being a coextruded composite having a length and a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite.

60. (New) A fencing system comprising:

a plurality of fence posts; and

a plurality of fence rails fastened to the plurality of fence posts so as to form a fence, wherein each of said fence posts and fence rails comprises

a weatherable outer layer comprising a first polymeric material;

a core layer substantially completely circumscribed by the outer layer and comprising a wood-filled thermoplastic second polymeric material; and

an inner layer substantially completely circumscribed by the core layer and comprising a thermoplastic third polymeric material, wherein the inner layer defines a hollow space;

the first polymeric material and the third polymeric material both comprising polyvinylchloride, and the second polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic, and combinations thereof; and

each of said fence posts and rails being a coextruded composite having a length and a cross-sectional area perpendicular to the length and the cross-sectional area having a substantially uniform size and shape along the entire length, and the hollow space extending along the entire length of the composite.